

Mountainside Board of Education

Meeting Highlights

November 21, 2023



This newsletter provides a monthly summary of discussions and actions taken at the Mountainside Board of Education meetings.

These are not the official minutes. Please check our website for the official minutes and additional information.

Our meetings are recorded and can be viewed on our website.

Mountainside School District Board of Education

Vivian Pupo (President), Dana Guidici Pietro (Vice President)
 Bill Dillon, Michael Goodwin, Jordan Hyman,
 Candice Schiano, Carmine Venes

Administrative Team

Janet Walling, Superintendent of Schools
 Steven Robinson, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary
 Suzanne Jenks, Principal – Deerfield School
 Jessica Vierschilling, Principal – Beechwood School
 Sheri Rouleau, Supervisor of Special Services

Action Items	Action Taken
Approval of Minutes	<i>BOE approved minutes for:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 17, 2023 Regular Session October 17, 2023 Executive Session
Correspondence	none
Public Participation	none
President's Report	Mrs. Pupo welcomed students and families in attendance.
Superintendent's Report	Mrs. Walling presented certificates to the Patriot's Pen Essay and Red Ribbon Week Poster contest winners. She thanked students for their talented submissions and participation. Mrs. Walling continued by thanking everyone who made our Veteran's Day an honorable celebration in Deerfield. She noted Mrs. Groth's efforts to create the annual Veteran's Wall in Beechwood. She mentioned what a busy month it's been, including parent/teacher conferences. She provided some QSAC information, the upcoming audit this year, the various categories the NJDOE looks at, our DPR/self-assessment on the agenda, and the anticipated visit from the county in February.
Business Administrator's Report	none
BH Liaison Report	Mr. Hyman reported from the last 2 meetings. The special meeting on 11/2 with Patty Reese focused on the board goals, specifically communication. The meeting on 11/16 had a new BA, Anthony Juskiewicz, with approvals of new coaches for hockey and wrestling and other winter sports updates. He noted the fall play was excellent. The new Asst. Principal will begin on 12/12. They discussed various school programs, like National Merit Scholars. There will be a special meeting on 12/7 to interview architects.
Administration	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved for the 23/24 SY</i> 22/23 NJDOE Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for BW and DF; School Safety and Security Plan SOA; DPR for NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJSAC) for 23/24; updated Mentoring Plan; "NJ Principal Evaluation for Professional Learning Observation Instrument" for administrative staff evaluations for 23/24; BW/DF Oct. drills.
Budget and Finance	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved:</i> Budget transfers for Sept. and Oct. 2023; Payment of the Bill Lists; Board Secretary Report for Sept and Oct; Agreement with BH for middle school wrestling program; Agreement with G2 Athletics, LLC for a 10 session tennis program for BW students, to be held 1/4-3/7; Golden Arrow to provide transportation for basketball; Acceptance of MEF grant in the amount of \$2,800 for STEAM robotics equipment; School District Travel/PD; Special Education placements; Home instruction for Student #2936698529, for up to 10 hours per week, provided by Dr. L. Hanes & Associates.

Personnel	<i>As recommended by the Superintendent, the BOE approved for the 23/24 SY:</i> Retirement of Denise Barone effective 1/1/24; medical leave for Employee #96953559 from 11/2-11/27; Notification to take classes from Cory Berger for 2023 Summer/Fall Sessions for 12 graduate credits in the amount of \$2,820; Leave Replacement teachers; Staff for curriculum writing; New substitutes; Stipend Positions; Clubs funded through Title I, not ARP; Dr. Fennelly to perform an Examination for Cause pursuant to Policy No. 3161, for Employee #96953559.		
Curriculum	Curricular documents; Field trips as detailed to the Board of Education.		
Policy	<i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies/regulations:</i> Suspend Bylaw 0131 and adopt new Policy 1642.01 and new Regulation 1642.01 and revised Policy 2419 and new Regulation 2419 with one reading.		
	P 2415.04	Title I - District-Wide Parental Involvement	Revised/Mandated
	P 2415.50	Beechwood Title I - School Parent and Family Engagement	New/Mandated
	P 2415.51	Deerfield Title I - School Parent and Family Engagement	New/Mandated
	<i>BOE had the first reading of the following policies/regulations</i>		
	P 1648.15	Recordkeeping for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID-19	New/Mandated
	<i>BOE had the second reading and adoption of the following policies/regulations:</i>		
	P 1230	Superintendent's Duties	Revised/Mandated
	P 2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program	Revised/Mandated
	P 8441	Care of Injured or Ill Persons	Revised/Mandated
	P 8500	Food Services	Revised/Mandated
	<i>BOE abolished the following policies/regulations:</i>		
	5512.01	Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying	5512.01
	5512.02	Cyber-Bullying	5512.02
	P 8540	School Nutrition Program	P 8540
	P 8550	Meal Charges/Outstanding Food Service Bill	P 8550
Old Business	Mr. Venes commented on reports about the lack of vocational curriculum in schools in general. Mrs. Walling commented that STEAM offers hand-on learning with tools, but also noted that vocational courses are typically offered at the high school level.		
New Business	Mr. Hyman congratulated Mrs. Pupo and Dr. Guidicipietro on their re-election to the board. He also noted the school board convention was well worth it, with many useful and practical sessions.		
Committee Reports	none		
Public Comments	none		

Our website: www.mountainsideschools.org

Please contact the office of the Mountainside BOE for additional information or questions: 908-232-8828